



MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LOWER TULE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

The Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District met in a regular Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Tipton, California. The meeting was called to order by President BENJAMIN R. SERAFIN. It was determined the following Directors were in attendance:

Director	Div. 2	2005	BENJAMIN SERAFIN
Director	Div. 3	2003	DONALD MACMILLAN
Director	Div. 4	2003	GARY FERNANDES
Director	Div. 1	2005	TONY SIMONICH
Director	Div. 5	2005	DIANE BOWMAN-FRIEND

District Staff Present: DANIEL G. VINK – General Manager  
ERIC LIMAS - Controller  
MIKE BATTLES – O&M Superintendent

**1. BOARD ADMINISTRATION**

On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 regular meeting were distributed for review, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003 regular meeting were approved as presented and ordered placed on file.

The Board reviewed the Financial Statement for the month of February 2003. Considerable time was spent reviewing a reserve account modification wherein the District will account for O & M expenditures under the reserve policy. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board accepted the financial statement, including the modification to the Reserve Policy, as presented and ordered it placed on file.

The Board reviewed the actions of the finance committee in directing payment of the January bills, following the February meeting. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board ratified



the actions of the finance committee in paying the January bills. The Board will meet following the March meeting to review the February bills.

General Manager VINK and Controller LIMAS brought various administrative matters to the Boards attention including the status of the Lower Tule & Pixley Water & Power Authority accounts as they had been discussed at previous meetings. Staff distributed information relative to those accounts. On motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized the closing of the Lower Tule & Pixley Water & Power Authority accounts. The District will be in receipt of \$13,823 as a result of closing those accounts.

## **2. WATER CONDITIONS**

Current water conditions were reviewed. The declaration for the Friant division has been set at 70% Class One. It is expected that that declaration will increase as the water year progresses.

The Board reviewed a variety of water supply programs including potentials exchanges and transfers for water year 2003. The Board also considered the preliminary allocation for Poplar Ditch Shareholders for 2003. Under agreement with Poplar Ditch Company, the Lower Tule River Irrigation District sets the entitlement for the Poplar Ditch Shareholders. By agreement Poplar Ditch Shareholders are to receive 55 acre-feet per share unless the water year type does not allow for that. In the event that the Board allocates less than 55 acre-feet per share the differences are made up in subsequent water years when water is available. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board set the preliminary Poplar Ditch allocation at 20 acre-feet per share. That allocation will be reviewed at subsequent meetings.

The Board considered a draft of the groundwater export policy as prepared by General Manager VINK. On motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board adopted the groundwater export policy pending final review by District Counsel. A copy of that policy is attached as "Exhibit A."

## **3. DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

O&M Superintendent BATTLES reviewed with the Board a variety of O&M activities and projects within the District including minor repair on canal #4 and various grading and spraying issues.



At 9:20 President SERAFIN moved the meeting into closed session to discuss various litigation matters. District Counsel DAN DOOLEY addressed the Board via speakerphone in closed session. At 9:45 President SERAFIN brought the meeting out of closed session and reported that no action had been taken.

The Board reviewed a variety of administrative matters including the status of the Districts ½ ton fleet inventory. O&M Superintendent BATTLES recommended that the District purchase 3 new ½ ton pick-up trucks from the State bid. The State bid trucks for 2003 are Chevrolet models and the District has been undertaking an effort to streamline its fleet to stock all GMC model pick-ups in its fleet. The District has not purchased any new pick-ups since 2001. On motion by Director FERNANDES, second by Director SIMONICH and unanimously approved the Board authorized the purchase of 3 new pick-up trucks from the State bid in the amount of \$ .

The Board then spent considerable time reviewing the Districts equipment rates including an analysis done by staff that had been distributed at previous meetings. After thorough review and discussion on motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board adopted the methodology of calculating equipment rates as presented by staff. The modified rates will go into effect on April 1, 2003. A revised copy of the Districts equipment rates is attached as “Exhibit B.”

General Manager VINK presented for consideration the renewal of the Districts property insurance program through ACWA/JPIA. The Districts premium for 2003 will be \$12,059. On motion by Director SIMONICH, second by Director FERNANDES and unanimously approved the Board authorized renewal of the property program through the Joint Powers Insurance Authority.

General Manager VINK presented for review a contract with Craig Smith Realty to sell a portion of the Districts property adjacent to the office building. After thorough review and discussion, on motion by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND, second by Director MACMILLAN and unanimously approved the Board authorized execution of the contract with Craig Smith provided that Craig Smith would be willing to list the property for \$125,000 and take no more than a 5% commission.

#### **4. CROSS VALLEY CANAL**

The Board reviewed a variety of Cross Valley Canal activities including the ongoing discussions to modify the 3<sup>rd</sup> party power and wheeling rates.

**5. TULE RIVER ASSOCIATION**

The Board reviewed the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of Tule River Association Board of Directors. The minutes of the TRA Board of Directors have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

Controller LIMAS and General Manager VINK presented for consideration disbursements of funds related to Success Power Project revenue for 2002. On motion by Director MACMILLAN, second by Director BOWMAN-FRIEND and unanimously approved the Board authorized distribution of funds pursuant to recommendation by VINK and LIMAS. A copy of the revenue distribution is attached as “Exhibit C.”

The Board reviewed a variety of Success Reservoir Enlargement activities including the status of the Local Project Agreement and a consulting agreement with JIM COSTA.

**6. FRIANT WATER USERS’ AUTHORITY**

The Board reviewed the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FWUA Board of Directors. The minutes of the FWUA have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

Considerable time at that meeting was spent discussing an amendment of the Joint Powers Agreement to admit the City of Fresno. Director MACMILLAN reported that the action to modify the JPA to admit the City of Fresno had failed. The Board then spent considerable time reviewing the future status of the FWUA and the Districts amalgamation into that Authority. It was the collective consensus of the Board that the FWUA operating structure has become cumbersome and is not conducive to positive relationships within the authority. The District will endeavor to work with FWUA staff and other FWUA members over the course of the next several months to rectify that situation.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITY/AGENCY**

A. Mid-Valley Water Authority.

B. Deer Creek & Tule River Authority. DCTRA held its every other month meeting in March. The minutes of the DCTRA have been distributed to the Board and are not repeated here.

**8. U.S DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Nothing new to report.

**9. MEETINGS, HEARINGS & NOTICES**

Nothing new to report.

**10. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

- A. Association of California Water Agencies.
- B. Central Valley Project Water Association
- C. California Water Resources Association
- D. National Water Resources Association
- E. California Chamber of Commerce.
- F. Ag Water Committee
- G. Water Education Foundation
- H. California Farm Water Coalition.
- I. Family Water Alliance.

There being no further business to be brought to the Boards attention the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel G. Vink